

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT NEBRASKA

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USDA Rural Development Assists The Omaha Tribe of Nebraska With \$268,000

Norfolk, Nebraska, June 21-The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development announced today funding approval totaling \$268,000 for improvements to the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska's sanitary sewer and solid waste collection systems.

USDA awarded \$203,000 in grant funds to the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska to make improvements to its existing solid waste collection system. Proposed improvements include the purchase of a compactor truck, a pickup truck for collection in rural areas, a roll-on/roll-off trailer with 40 cubic yard container, twenty-five 3 cubic yard containers, trash barrels, floor scale and sickle bar mower.

Robert Prochaska, rural development specialist for USDA Rural Development explains, "The Tribe is in desperate need of a new compactor truck as their existing truck is no longer operable. The Tribe has had to rely on a pickup truck for the collection of their garbage, which has made it virtually impossible for them to provide a timely and efficient garbage collection service." Prochaska continued, "The proposed improvements will provide a long-term solution for the Tribe's collection needs and will enhance their ability to provide quality collection services."

The Omaha Tribe of Nebraska also received \$65,000 in grant funds from USDA to renovate the existing lift station in Macy, Nebraska. This project will be leveraged with funds from the Indian Health Service in the amount of \$10,000. The renovation of the lift station will include the installation of two new submersible pumps, the coating of the interior of the wet well, replacement of the trash basket and rail system, along with upgrading the electrical system.

Prochaska said, "The existing lift station, which has only one operable pump, has reached the end of its useful life and needs to be replaced." "The community could be threatened with wastewater backing up into adjoining residences and businesses if this remaining sole pump should fail."

USDA Rural Development is a credit arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture whose mission is to provide financial assistance to rural communities who are unable to secure acceptable credit elsewhere for housing, community facilities, and business development. Assistance provided can be in the form of grants, direct loans, and guarantees on loans made by commercial lenders.

The USDA funds are received through the Water & Waste Disposal Grant/Native Americans Section 306C Water and Waste Grants Program of USDA Rural Development. For additional information regarding USDA Rural Development Loan and Grant Programs, contact Robert Prochaska in the USDA Rural Development Office, 1909 Vicki Lane, Suite 103 Norfolk, Neb. 68701 or phone (402) 371-5350. Website: www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/.

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